

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

/119 W

-----151518Z 049183 /43

P 151430Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0092

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, IAEA, GW, BR

SUBJECT: IAEA OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

1. BRAZILIAN PRESS ON FEB. 13 QUOTED IAEA CHIEF INSPECTOR RUDOLF ROMETSCH AS DECLARING IN A RADIO INTERVIEW THAT THE IAEA WILL HAVE TOTAL CONTROL OVER THE UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN BRAZIL. ROMETSCH'S REPORTED REASONING WAS THAT, SINCE ALL BRAZILIAN ACTIVITIES IN THE NUCLEAR SECTOR DEPEND ON IMPORTED MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT, THIS IMPLIES THAT THE IAEA WILL CONTROL ALL NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES IN BRAZIL. ACCORDING TO JORNAL DO BRASIL, ROMETSCH OBSERVED HOWEVER THAT BRAZIL, SINCE IT HAD REFUSED TO ADHERE TO THE NPT, HAD NOT FORMALLY PLEDGED TO RENOUNCE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE IAEA CONTROL.

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2. ROMETSCH REPORTEDLY SAID THE JET NOZZLE ENRICHMENT PROCESS CANNOT REACH WITH EASE THE LEVEL OF ENRICHMENT NECESSARY TO PRODUCE MATERIAL FOR ATOMIC BOMBS. HE ALSO SAID, ACCORDING TO JORNAL, THAT FEWER, LARGE REPROCESSING PLANTS SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTED INSTEAD OF A GREATER NUMBER OF SMALLER FACILITIES.

3. COMMENT. ROMETSCH'S STATEMENT, ASSUMING IT IS CORRECTLY

REPORTED, IS VERY MISLEADING. BRAZIL HAS, FOR INSTANCE, OPERATED AN UNSAFEGUARDED, LABORATORY-SCALE HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION FACILITY. TO SUGGEST THAT BRAZIL COULD NOT IN THE FUTURE UNDERTAKE ON ITS OWN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SENSITIVE PARTS OF THE FUEL CYCLE REPRESENTS IN OUR OPINION, A HARMFUL ERROR. AS WITH OAS SECRETARY-GENERAL ORFILA'S STATEMENT (SEPTEL), THE ROMETSCH STATEMENT UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE INTERPRETED HERE AS TIMELY SUPPORT FOR BRAZIL AGAINST THE U.S. POSITION. SOME BRAZILIANS WILL PROBABLY CITE THE STATEMENT AS AUTHORITATIVE JUSTIFICATION FOR BRAZILIAN RESISTANCE TO FURTHER MEASURES. A PUBLIC CLARIFICATION OF THE STATEMENT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

CRIMMINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** TECH, ENRG, PARM, PORG, GE, BR, IAEA  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009